

SEP 30 1983

DATE: September 16, 1983

TO: ~~Division File~~

FROM: Charles Gruntman, DLPC, FOS, Maywood Office

SUBJECT: 03144015 - Cook County - Elk Grove Village/Film Recovery Systems

Rosemont/Red Devil
Summit/Eagle
McCook/J's

Hodgkins/Gemini
Chicago Ridge/Livco
Chicago/Aldens

On September 16, 1983, Michael O'Toole and Dan Hopkins from the U.S. EPA accompanied Ken Bechely and this writer on visits to all six sites in the Chicagoland area that are storing truck trailers containing plastic film chips contaminated with cyanide. The purpose of the visits was to acquaint the U.S. EPA representatives with the location of the sites and the conditions of the trailers.

Our first stop was at Red Devil Manufacturing in Rosemont, Ill. We counted 25 trailers containing cyanide contaminated film chips at this site. Access to this site is restricted by a snow fence which has fallen to the ground in one section. We observed no guard or company personnel present to prevent unauthorized entrance.

Eagle Trailer in Summit, Ill., was our next stop. Access to the site is restricted by wire fencing. In order to enter the site one must pass by the company's office trailer where identification is demanded. We counted 27 trailers containing film chips at this site.

At J's Mobil Repair in McCook, Ill., we counted 14 trailers containing film chips. Access to the site is restricted by wire fencing. At this site, also, one must pass by the company's office trailer to enter the site.

Gemini Leasing in Hodgkins, Ill., was our next stop. This site contained 26 trailers with cyanide contaminated film chips. Access to the site is restricted by wire fencing and the entrance to the area is visible from the company's office building. There was also company personnel working outside in the vicinity of the 26 trailers.

Livco Trailers in Chicago Ridge, Ill., has wire fencing surrounding their property. To enter the site one must pass by the company's office building. At this site we counted 18 trailers that contained the contaminated chips.

Our last stop was at Aldens in Chicago, Ill. This site contains 10 Eagle trailers with cyanide contaminated plastic chips and 27 trailers - east of the Eagle trailers - containing plastic chips that have been treated to remove the cyanide contamination. Access to this site is restricted by a wire fence surrounding the perimeter and by a guard at the entrance to the property.

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All of the sites are similar in that most of the trailers containing the contaminated film chips show some evidence of deterioration. Most of the trailers have corrosion on the bottom and along the bottom of the sidewalls. At all of the sites, some trailers are dripping a blue or brown liquid. The frequency of the dripping is slow; however, in two locations, Gemini Leasing and Livco Trailer's, the brown liquid has accumulated into puddles containing more than a couple of gallons. At none of the sites was this liquid observed leaving the property. At Aldens, J's Mobil, and Eagle the trailers are parked on asphalt. The trailers at the other sites are parked on dirt or gravel. At all of the sites we observed a musty, pungent odor in the vicinity of the trailers containing the contaminated film chips. The odor was not present around the 27 trailers at Aldens that contain the treated film chips. Some of the trailers at some of the sites have their front supports sinking into the ground or asphalt.

The U.S. EPA representatives took photographs at all of the sites. They collected a sample of the contaminated film chips from the back of a trailer at Gemini Leasing. Mike O'Toole stated that he will be arranging, with Bob Wengrow from our Rockford Office, a visit to the film chip site in Dixon, Ill.

CJG:pgb

cc: Northern Region
Joseph Drazek, A.G.'s Office
Jack Barnette, Emergency Response Unit